



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



MAR 16 2007

To: State Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Secretary, Department of Natural Resources of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
Governor of Guam
Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands
Governor of American Samoa
Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mayor of the District of Columbia

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that in March the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will publish a request for proposals (RFP) for Tier 2 grants under the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) on grants.gov.

This letter will also: (1) explain how grant awards amounts will be determined; (2) notify you of the expected timeline and amount of Tier 1 grants; (3) notify you of the intended timeline for Tier 2 proposals; (4) clarify what the Service expects in a Tier 2 proposal; and (5) emphasize the importance of obligating LIP grant funds quickly.

At this time, we are only requesting proposals for Tier 2 grants. We anticipate that the approximate level of funding available for 2007 LIP Tier 1 and Tier 2 grants will be \$20.6 million. Each State may apply for no more than 5 percent of the total LIP funds available nationwide or \$1,029,510 in combined Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding.

In December 2006, we requested RFPs for Tier 1 grants. We expect that we will award Tier 1 grants in March or April of 2007. The maximum available for individual Tier 1 proposals will be \$180,000.

Due to the relatively low level of LIP funding this year, it may be necessary to consider partial funding of some Tier 2 proposals. We encouraged you to draft your proposals with this possibility in mind to ensure that projects will be viable if less than full funding is available.

We anticipate placing a 60-day request for proposals FY 2007 LIP Tier 2 program on grants.gov in March. We ask the States to submit hard copies of their complete Tier-2 proposals to their respective Federal Assistance Regional Offices. States should also submit their Tier 2 proposals in electronic PDF format to the Service's Washington Office. The Washington Office will distribute electronic copies of Tier 2 proposals to the LIP National Review Team. Within 60 days of the proposal submission deadline, the Review Team will meet and select Tier-2 proposals for award recommendations to the Service Director.

To provide further guidance, we have attached a copy of the *LIP Guidelines: Tier 2 Grants (FY 2007)* including Tier 2 ranking criteria.



Our ability to support LIP funding at previous levels has been impacted by the States' low LIP obligation rates. We believe it is critical that States and other eligible jurisdictions obligate current and prior LIP funds as quickly as possible and continue to do so on an annual basis. If your agency has been slow to obligate LIP funds, we urge you to identify LIP spending as a priority and assign adequate staff to implement this program in a timely fashion. Furthermore, we ask that you only request Tier 2 funds that you will be able to obligate in the near term (i.e. the next 1 to 2 years). For its part, the Service is working to streamline compliance requirements to allow for a faster grant obligation process.

We hope this information has been helpful to you. If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Federal Assistance Office.

Sincerely,

Acting 
Deputy DIRECTOR

Attachment